

Remarks

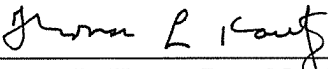
This response is filed within two months from the Final Office Action mailed June 21, 2007 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Proni (U.S. Patent No. 6,219,431), and rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Sagawa (JP 57197999 A). Claims 3-17 were objected to as containing allowable subject matter, but are dependent upon a rejected base claim.

In response, applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claim 4 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 1 and to conform to the amendment of claim 1. Claims 5-8, 10-12 and 14-17 have been amended to conform to the amendment of claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

In view of the amendment to claims 1, 4-8, 10-12 and 14-17, and the cancellation of claims 2 and 3, applicant considers this case to be in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests early notification of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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